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REMARKS

During a telephone conference with the above-identified Examiner, Applicants were advised that the dependency of certain claims appeared to be questionable and/or possibly incorrect. Because the Examiner intends to impose a restriction requirement, he wanted to resolve this issue before he proceeded further.

Applicants have reviewed the dependency of claims 34-57 and have concluded that there is no specific problem with the dependency of these claims. However, applicants also would note that claims 35-39 could depend from either of claim 1 or claim 34. Thus, and for clarity, Applicants have amended claims 35-39 in the foregoing amendment so each depends from claim 34. In addition, Applicants have added claims 58-62, which claims include the limitations of claims 35-39 and which were written so as to depend from claim 1.

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the instant preliminary amendment to the claims because the amendment does not involve the introduction of new matter. Applicants also request the Examiner consider the above-amended claims in the first office action on the merits.

Included herewith is a marked-up version of the amendments to the subject application by the current Preliminary Amendment. The marked-up versions are found on the pages captioned or entitled "Details of Amendments" that follow the signature page of the within Preliminary Amendment.

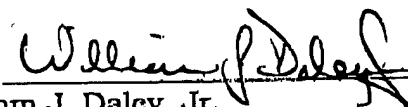
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

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Because the total number of claims and/or the total number of independent claims in the subject application post amendment now exceed the highest number previously paid for, Applicants have authorized the Commissioner to charge the below identified deposit account for the required additional fees. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to further charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

Date: June 28, 2002

By: 
William J. Daley, Jr.
(Reg. No. 35,487)
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
(617) 439- 4444

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DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 35-39 to read as follows:

35. (AMENDED) The front illuminating device of claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein the sum of a pitch of the flat portions and a pitch of the slanting portions that are formed on the light-directing body is set to become smaller as the distance from the incident surface increases.

36. (AMENDED) The front-illuminating device as defined in claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein the width of the slanting portions on the ~~second light-releasing surface~~ is made smaller than the width of the flat portions thereof.

37. (AMENDED) The front-illuminating device as defined in claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein the addition of the width of the flat portions and the width of the slanting portions in the light-directing body is set in the range from not less than 0.05 mm to not more than 1.0 mm.

38. (AMENDED) The front-illuminating device as defined in claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein, supposing that the width of the flat portions is w_1 and the width of the slanting portions is w_2 , the ratio w_2/w_1 of the width of the slanting portions to the width of the flat

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portions is set in a range from not less than 0.01 to not more than 0.2.

39. ~~(AMENDED)~~ The front-illuminating device as defined in claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein, supposing that the width of the flat portions is w_1 and the width of the slanting portions is w_2 , the ratio w_2/w_1 of the width of the slanting portions to the width of the flat portions increases as it departs from the light incident surface.

Add new claims 58-62 that read as follows:

58. ~~(ADDED)~~ The front illuminating device of claim 1, wherein the sum of a pitch of the flat portions and a pitch of the slanting portions that are formed on the light-directing body is set to become smaller as the distance from the incident surface increases.

59. ~~(ADDED)~~ The front-illuminating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the width of the slanting portions on the second light-releasing surface is made smaller than the width of the flat portions thereof.

60. ~~(ADDED)~~ The front-illuminating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the addition of the width of the flat portions and the width of the slanting portions in the light-directing body is set in the range from not less than 0.05 mm to not more than 1.0 mm.

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61. (ADDED) The front-illuminating device as defined in claim 1, wherein, supposing that the width of the flat portions is w_1 and the width of the slanting portions is w_2 , the ratio w_2/w_1 of the width of the slanting portions to the width of the flat portions is set in a range from not less than 0.01 to not more than 0.2.

62. (ADDED) The front-illuminating device as defined in claim 1, wherein, supposing that the width of the flat portions is w_1 and the width of the slanting portions is w_2 , the ratio w_2/w_1 of the width of the slanting portions to the width of the flat portions increases as it departs from the light incident surface.

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